

- 24 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A14
~~1. A method for examining a disease, comprising:
measuring the concentrations of plural opioid peptides
in blood cell, body fluid, or tissue, and
calculating the ratio of said concentrations to thereby
determine whether opioids are involved in the disease.~~

~~2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said opioid
peptides to be measured are plural opioid peptides selected
from the group consisting of a μ -opioid peptide, a κ -opioid
peptide, a δ -opioid peptide, and nociceptin.~~

~~3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said opioid
peptides to be measured are a μ -opioid peptide and a κ -
opioid peptide.~~

Sub B2
~~4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said opioid
peptides to be measured are β -endorphin and dynorphin A.~~

A
~~5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disease
to be examined is a pruritic disease.~~

Sub A17
~~6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said pruritic
disease is pruritus with atopic dermatitis, neurodermatitis,~~

Sub A17
contact dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, autosensitization dermatitis, caterpillar dermatitis, asteatosis, senile pruritus, insect bite, hyperesthesia optica, urticaria, prurigo, herpes, impetigo, eczema, tinea, lichen, psoriasis, scabies, acne vulgaris, malignant tumor, diabetes, hepatic disease, renal failure, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, or pregnancy.

7. A method for examining a disease, comprising:
measuring the degrees of expression of plural opioid receptors in blood cell, body fluid, or tissue, and
comparing the degrees of expression to thereby determine whether opioids are involved in pruritus.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said opioid receptors to be measured are plural receptors selected from the group consisting of a μ -opioid receptor, a κ -opioid receptor, a δ -opioid receptor, and ORL-1 receptor.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein said opioid receptors to be measured are a μ -opioid receptor and a κ -opioid receptor.

10. A method according to claim 7, said disease to be examined is a pruritic disease.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said pruritic disease is pruritus with atopic dermatitis, neurodermatitis, contact dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, autosensitization dermatitis, caterpillar dermatitis, asteatosis, senile pruritus, insect bite, hyperesthesia optica, urticaria, prurigo, herpes, impetigo, eczema, tinea, lichen, psoriasis, scabies, acne vulgaris, malignant tumor, diabetes, hepatic disease, renal failure, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, or pregnancy.

Add B4